

CAPSULE SUMMARY
BA-1536
112 Pennsylvania Avenue
East Towson, Baltimore County
Circa 1915
Private

The dwelling at 112 Pennsylvania Avenue was constructed circa 1915 in the East Towson neighborhood of Baltimore County. The history of East Towson dates from the purchase of one-and-a-quarter acres of land by Daniel Harris in September 1853. This is believed to be the first documented African-American landholding in Towson, and is among the oldest such ethnic enclave in Baltimore County. Further, manumitted slaves and/or descendants of former slaves, many of who were owned by Charles Ridgely, populated the neighborhood. Hampered by the low economic status of the residents, development in the 19th century was slow, increasing after the turn of the 20th century. The setting of the property, building styles, and construction materials were guided by the limited economic status of the residents and their desire to establish a neighborhood of their own without the assistance of white architects, builders, and craftsmen. By 1927, the community was ninety-five percent improved with single-family dwellings, social buildings, a school, and religious structures.

Sited on a level lot, this dwelling fronts close to the road with foundation plantings. The wood frame house sits on a solid rock-faced concrete block foundation with a side gable roof. A shed roof enclosed porch on the façade is four bays wide with an off-center entry. The entrance contains a single-leaf 3-light over a panel flanked by 1/1 double-hung vinyl sash windows. The second-story features paired 6/1 double-hung wood sash windows. One side elevation is covered in wood shingles. One exterior-end parged concrete block chimney rises above the asphalt shingle roof. The roof features overhanging eaves, a boxed cornice encased in aluminum, and cornice returns. Alterations to the dwelling include the enclosed porch, the building is partially re-clad in vinyl siding, and there is one shed-roof addition on the rear elevation. The dwelling has been converted to an office building.

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. BA-1536

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic

other

2. Location

street and number 112 Pennsylvania Avenue __ not for publication

city, town Baltimore __ vicinity

county Baltimore County

3. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Carson B. Driggs

street and number 506 Hillen Road telephone Not Available

city, town Baltimore state MD zip code 21286-7344

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Baltimore County Courthouse liber 3493 folio 648

city, town Towson tax map 70A tax parcel 559 tax ID number 904650101

5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- Contributing Resource in National Register District
- Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
- Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
- Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
- Recorded by HABS/HAER
- Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT
- Other: _____

6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function		Resource Count	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	1	_____ buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	_____	_____ sites
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> domestic	<input type="checkbox"/> social	_____	_____ structures
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	_____	_____ objects
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	1	_____ Total
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> unknown		
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	<input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use		
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> other:		
				Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory	
				1	

7. Description

Inventory No. BA-1536

Condition

excellent deteriorated
 good ruins
 fair altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Sited on a level lot, this dwelling fronts close to the road with foundation plantings. The wood frame house sits on a solid rock-faced concrete block foundation with a side gable roof. A shed roof enclosed porch on the façade is four bays wide with an off-center entry. The entrance contains a single-leaf 3-light over a panel flanked by 1/1 double-hung vinyl sash windows. The second-story features paired 6/1 double-hung wood sash windows. One side elevation is covered in wood shingles. One exterior-end parged concrete block chimney rises above the asphalt shingle roof. The roof features overhanging eaves, a boxed cornice encased in aluminum, and cornice returns. Alterations to the dwelling include the enclosed porch, the building is partially re-clad in vinyl siding, and there is one shed-roof addition on the rear elevation. The dwelling has been converted to an office building.

8. Significance

Inventory No. BA-1536

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

Specific dates 1915 ca. **Architect/Builder** Unknown

Construction dates 1915 ca.

Evaluation for:

National Register Maryland Register not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

The house at 112 Pennsylvania Avenue was constructed circa 1915 in the East Towson neighborhood of Baltimore County. East Towson is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history, specifically the pre-Civil War development of an African-American neighborhood in a predominately white community. The history of this property dates from the purchase of one-and-a-quarter acres of land by Daniel Harris in September 1853. This is believed to be the first documented African-American landholding in Towson, and is among the oldest such ethnic enclave in Baltimore County. Further, manumitted slaves and/or descendents of former slaves, many of who were owned by Charles Ridgely, populated the neighborhood. Hampered by the low economic status of the residents, development in the 19th century was slow, increasing after the turn of the 20th century. The setting of the property, building styles, and construction materials were guided by the limited economic status of the residents and their desire to establish a neighborhood of their own without the assistance of white architects, builders, and craftsmen. By 1927, the community was ninety-five percent improved with single-family dwellings, social buildings, a school, and religious structures. Many of the current homeowners and tenants living in the neighborhood are descendents of the first African-American residents.

East Towson as a whole is representative of an important phase of architectural development in Baltimore County, illustrating the dilution of popular architectural styles to more efficiently meet the needs of the neighborhood, and the builders' untrained abilities to execute the fashionable ornamentation. Thus, East Towson provided lower cost housing in a more suburban neighborhood, rather than the urban setting their economic status typically perpetuated.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. BA-1536

Atlas of Baltimore County, Maryland. Philadelphia, PA: G. M. Hopkins, 1877.

Baltimore County Historic Inventory.

Brooks, Neal A. and Eric G. Rockel. *A History of Baltimore County.* Towson, MD: Friends of the Towson Library, Inc., 1979.

Map of Baltimore County. Philadelphia, PA: G. W. Bromley, 1915.

Scharf, J. Thomas. *History of Baltimore City and County From the Earliest Period to the Present Day: Including Biographical Sketches of Their Representative Men.* Philadelphia, PA: Louis H. Everts, 1881. Reprinted by Higginson Book Company, Salem, MA.

Sidney, J. C. *Map of the City and County of Baltimore, Maryland, from Original Surveys.* Baltimore, MD: James M. Stephens, 1850.

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of surveyed property .07 Acre

Acreege of historical setting Unknown

Quadrangle name Towson

Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

The house is located at 112 Pennsylvania Avenue in East Towson in the Ninth District of Baltimore County. It has historically been associated with Tax Map 70A, Parcel 559 since its construction circa 1915.

11. Form Prepared by

name/title	K. Baynard, J. Bunting, R. Weidlich, Architectural Historians		
organization	EHT Traceries, Incorporated	date	December 27, 2001
street & number	1121 5th Street NW	telephone	202.393.1199
city or town	Washington	state	DC

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
DHCD/DHCP
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023
410-514-7600

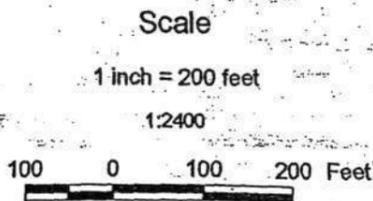
East Towson: Planimetric Data



BA #: 1536
 Name: House, 112 Pennsylvania Avenue
 East Towson
 Baltimore County



Prepared by:
 Baltimore County Office of Planning
 401 Bosley Avenue
 Towson, Maryland 21204
 June, 2001



Legend

Study Area Boundary	Hydrographic Features
Paved Roads	Buildings
Unpaved Roads	Vegetation
Paved Parking / Driveways	

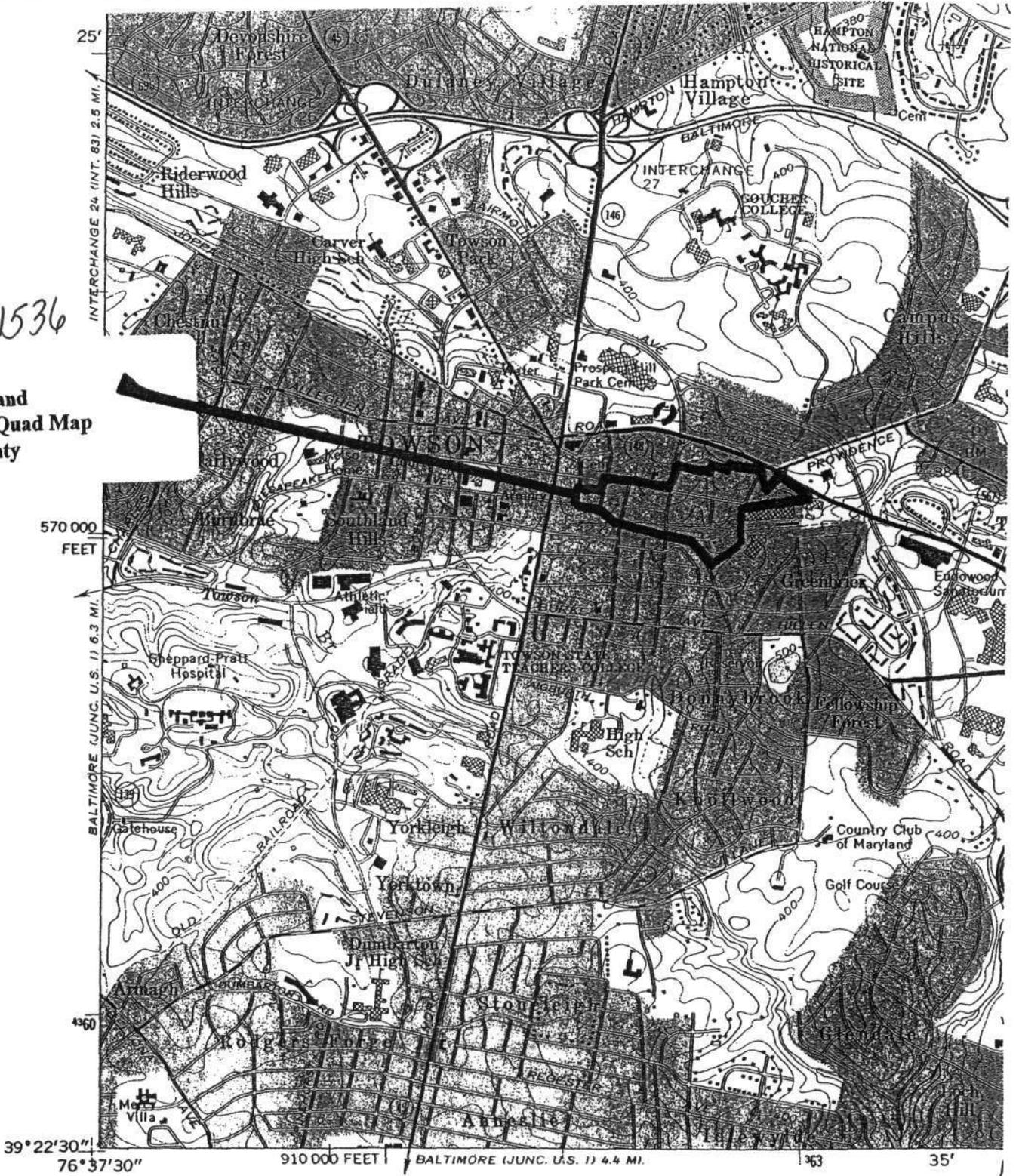
Data Sources:
 Planimetric Data: Baltimore County OIT GIS Services Unit (1:2400)
 Parcel Boundaries: Baltimore County OIT GIS Services Unit (1:2400)
 Study Area: Baltimore County Office of Planning (1:2400)

Coordinate System:
 Maryland State Plane: NAD83/91 Horizontal Datum
 Elevations in Feet: NAVD88 Vertical Datum

Date of Data Capture: March 1996
 Scale of Data Capture: 1" = 100'

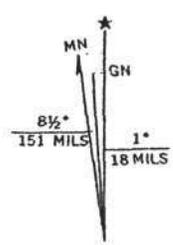
**East Towson
Towson, Maryland
Towson USGS Quad Map
Baltimore County**

BA-1536



(BALTIMORE WEST)
5882 1 SW

Mapped by the Army Map Service
 Edited and published by the Geological Survey
 Control by USGS, USC&GS, USCE, and Maryland
 Bureau of Control Surveys and Maps
 Culture and drainage in part compiled from aerial photographs
 taken 1943. Topography by planetable surveys 1944
 Culture revised by the Geological Survey 1957
 Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
 10,000-foot grid based on Maryland coordinate system
 1000-metre Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
 zone 18, shown in blue
 Red tint indicates areas in which only
 landmark buildings are shown
 Revisions shown in purple compiled by the Geological Survey from
 aerial photographs taken 1966 and 1974. This information not
 field checked
 Purple tint indicates extension of urban areas



UTM GRID AND 1974 MAGNETIC NORTH
DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET



BA-1536

HOUSE, 112 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE

BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

TRACERIES

10/2001

MD-SHPL

NORTHWEST CORNER

1 of 3



BA-1536

HOUSE, 112 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE

BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

TRACERIES

10/2001

MD-SHPD

NORTHEAST CORNER

2 of 3



BA-1536

HOUSE, 112 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE
BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

TRACERIES

10/2001

MD-SHPD

SOUTHEAST CORNER

3 of 3

BA 1536 DUNNING HOUSE, EAST - 1926 - 112 East Pennsylvania Avenue, Towson. Brown frame and shingle house, two stories, with gambrel roof, vernacular style; enclosed porch; rock-faced concrete block foundation. Twin of

DISTRICT 9 (CONTINUED)

house to west (Tack's). Built 1926 by John M. Dunning, who demolished the Mitchell (later German) house shown here in 1898 atlas. Sold to G.S. Martin, Jr., in 1936. Owner: B. Carson Driggs.